

Spotlight on Bamberg . . .

Bamberg County and its county seat were named for local resident William Seaborn Bamberg (1820-1858). This area was part of Barnwell County until 1897, when the new county was established. Although the area has been primarily agricultural, several towns developed along the route of the South Carolina Railroad in the mid-nineteenth century. In February 1865, Confederate soldiers fought an unsuccessful skirmish against General Sherman's troops at Rivers Bridge, now the site of a state park. The plantation of author William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870) was in what is now Bamberg County, and artist Jim Harrison is also a native of the county.

Orangeburg Workforce Center
1804 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy., P O Drawer 1486
Orangeburg, SC 29116
(803) 534-3336 / FAX: (803) 531-8869

Location & Climate

- Located in the southwestern area of the state
- Surrounded by Barnwell, Orangeburg, Dorchester, Colleton, Hampton, and Allendale counties
- This region has an average temperature of 64.3 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 47.4 inches.

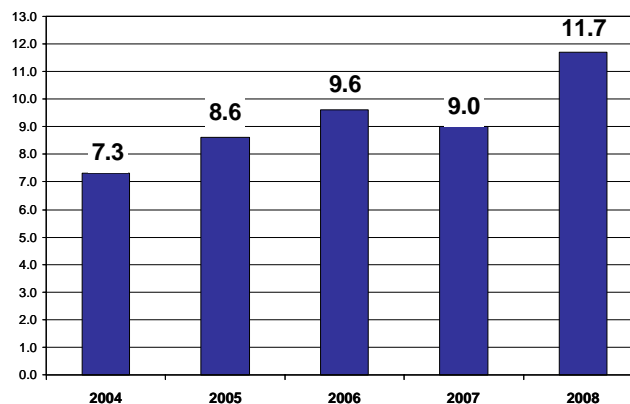
Population

- Was 15,470 in 2007
- Has exceeded estimated growth through 2030
- 2007 data was comprised of 37.3% White, 61.8% African-American, and 0.9% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population increased from 118 in 2000 to 179 in 2007, a 51.7% change.

Labor Force

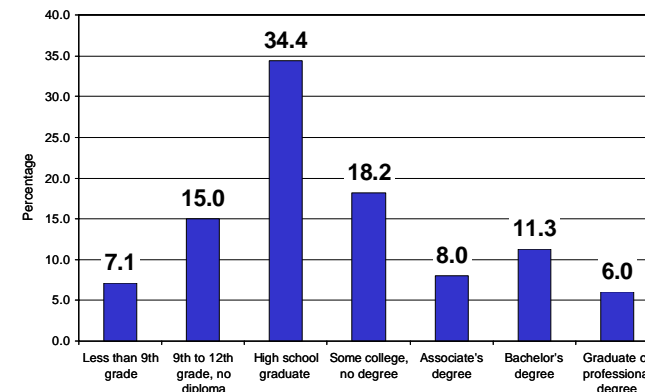
- Increased from 6,250 in 2007 to 6,300 in 2008
- Employment dropped from 5,690 in 2007 to 5,560 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate rose from 9.0% in 2007 to 11.7% in 2008.

**Unemployment Rates for Bamberg County
2004 - 2008**



Educational Attainment

Bamberg County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$22,690 for 2007.
- This was 73% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 59% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Orangeburg Workforce Center, which serves Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg counties paid \$18,132,527 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



**SC Employment Security Commission
Labor Market Information**

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)
<http://www.sces.org/lmi>

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